

Jefferson yielded to their combined wishes, and in March, arrived in New York City, then the seat of government, to enter upon the discharge of his duties.

The colleagues whom he found already serving in the Cabinet were Alexander Hamilton of New York, Secretary of the Treasury; Henry Knox of Massachusetts, Secretary of War; and Edmund Randolph of Virginia, Attorney-General,

In vigor of intellect, self-confidence, and experience in public affairs, Jefferson immediately took his place by the side of Hamilton. These two became the dominant figures of the Cabinet; the other two members merely reflecting their views. They differed radically in their ideas of finance, of government,* and even of the constitution of society. That Washington should bring them together as his official advisers excited no suspicion that their lack of harmony might interfere with their successful co-operation. His cherished wish was to obviate factional strife by giving representation to the diverse political elements. This idea, though afterwards found impossible to realize, was typical of his moral grandeur.

Hamilton and Jefferson now met personally for the first time. Their relations in the beginning were pleasant, for each was disposed to look upon the other without prejudice. Each was genial in temper and manners, frank, and *next* given to duplicity. Their outward friendliness lasted longer than would have been the case had not circumstances delayed the occasion of the first decided difference. While the President, on general questions, took the opinion of the entire Cabinet, on questions which pertained especially to one department, he consulted only the head of that department. Questions of finance, upon which Jefferson and Hamilton would soonest have differed, were especially subject to this rule. The Funding Bill, which concerned the payment of Revolutionary securities, had been passed by Congress before Jefferson entered the Cabinet. Its logical successor, the Assumption Bill, upon which Congress was engaged when he entered the Cabinet, was regarded as belonging

*See Hamilton, page 238.
 †See Assumption, page 142.